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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Trihalomethane Water Notice

Kerrville-The City of Kerrville water system is tested quarterly for total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) during the third and fourth quarters of 2010 the Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL) as set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), was exceeded by 7 to 9 parts per billion (the equivalent of a very small drop of water diluted in an Olympic-sized swimming pool). TTHM are a group of four chemicals (chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane) that the EPA suspects may be a carcinogen and may cause kidney/liver problems if consumed in moderate to large quantities over many years. The City is now required to provide a public notice that its water customers will be receiving in the mail. This is **not an emergency**. City water is safe to drink**.**

Since chlorine is used as a disinfectant in the treatment of the City's water supply, minute amounts of TTHM may form when naturally occurring organic compounds found in our river water come in contact with the chlorine, causing this disinfection by-product. Other factors that may increase TTHM byproducts are warm weather, high organic content in the water supply (after heavy rain), and low water usage (normally found at the ends of the distribution system where water is not immediately used). The City has evaluated the use of other disinfection products but none are as effective as chlorine. Residents do not need to boil their water; however, doing so may help to reduce TTHM. Other practical methods to reduce TTHM are the installation of carbon filters or reverse osmosis units which work very well for removing disinfection by-products.

To reduce TTHM in our drinking water the City of Kerrville is:

- Painting dark colored City water tanks a lighter color: Dark tanks heat the water causing favorable conditions for TTHM formation. College Cove Tank is currently being painted. The Kerrville North tank will be painted next.

- Circulating water in storage tanks: Stale water or water sitting still in a tank tends to develop more TTHM. Circulating and spraying this water to the top of the tank can considerably reduce or eliminate TTHM. One of the City's tanks has been fitted with a circulator/sprayer with promising results. Other tanks will be equipped soon.

- Blending treated surface water with ground water: Blending during/after a heavy rain will reduce or eliminate TTHM formation. Flood waters carry increased organic carbon. Organic carbon can combine with chlorine to form TTHM.

- Flushing water mains: Flushing helps keep drinking water fresh, as stale water is conducive to TTHM development. The City may flush up to one million gallons of water per month from a single dead-end or low-usage water main.

The City is also investigating and considering many other methods of TTHM reduction and anticipates having TTHM levels within regulation by the end of the first quarter of 2011 (March). The City is committed to providing safe drinking water to all of its customers, for additional information concerning this Trihalomethane Water Notice, contact the City's Utility Administration at 830.792.8319.

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